

STATE OF VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST
DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

Department Mission Statement

The Department's mission is to make Vermont the best state in the nation in which to grow old or live with a disability, with dignity, respect and independence.

Description of Appropriations, Divisions, & Programs

The Department has five major divisions that contribute to achieving the mission.

*** The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI)** assists Vermonters who are blind or have a visual impairment to enter or return to work, much the same as HireAbility. It also provides funding for independent living services, to help blind or visually impaired individuals to live in and contribute to their communities. The major programs in DBVI include: The core rehabilitation work, known as Section 110 Services, and the Older Blind Program.

*** Adult Services Division (ASD)** is responsible for long-term services and supports to older Vermonters, individuals with brain injuries and adults with physical disabilities. ASD works with private organizations to provide a broad array of long-term services and supports, including: residential support, community support, case management, family supports, respite, employment support, crisis services, clinical interventions, assistance with activities of daily living, assistive technology, guardianship services, nursing home level of care, rehabilitation services, support to live at home, information and referral, integrated health care and personal care. The Division supports older Vermonters and adults with physical disabilities to live as they choose, pursuing their goals and preferences within their chosen communities. ASD seeks to ensure their basic human and civil rights, health, well-being and safety, provides effective leadership for disability and aging policy and services in Vermont, and meets federal and state mandates by developing and managing public resources effectively.

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***Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD)** is responsible for services to people with developmental disabilities and guardianship services to adults with developmental disabilities and older Vermonters. DDSD works with private organizations to provide a broad array of long-term services and supports, including: case management, family supports, community supports, employment supports, guardianship services, residential support, crisis support, clinical intervention, respite and rehabilitation services. The Division supports older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities to live as they choose, pursuing their individual goals and preferences within their chosen community. DDSD seeks to ensure their basic human and civil rights, health, well-being and safety, provides effective leadership for disability and aging policy and services in Vermont, and meets federal and state mandates by developing and managing public resources effectively.

*** The Division of Licensing and Protection (DLP)** performs a critical role in ensuring the quality of many health care services and protecting vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Major programs in DLP include: Survey and Certification which conducts inspections and surveys of all Medicare and Medicaid facilities and organizations including nursing home and home health agencies, state licensure of residential care homes and other facilities, and Adult Protective Services which investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation against vulnerable adults.

*** HireAbility** assists Vermonters with a disability to enter or re-enter the workforce through a wide variety of programs and individual support services. The core program (VR Section 110) enables Vermonters with a disability to assess their skills and abilities, identify a vocational goal, develop an Individualized Plan for Employment and receive services leading to meaningful employment. HireAbility supports people with the most significant disabilities through supported employment programs and has developed a network of specialized Transition Counselors to support young adults from school to work. The Division operates a statewide Benefits Counseling Program to support Social Security beneficiaries to work, and the Assistive Technology (AT) Project that provides Vermonters with information and training on AT devices and services.

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DAIL OVERVIEW FOR BAA

Total Net Increase for BAA (all funds combined) \$ 30,313,848

This includes:

1) Internal Service fund increase for Agency of Digital Services	\$ 312,378
2) AFSCME – Collective Bargaining Agreement bonus Direct Care workers all appropriations	\$ 2,396,001
3) Choices for Care estimated Nursing Home Pressures (Emergency Financial Relief (EFR) requests)	\$ 14,500,000
4) Choices for Care (CFC) H&CB pressure	\$ 2,500,000
5) Choices for Care (CFC) – Nursing Home Medicaid bed day Pressure (AHS net-neutral) 25,639 days \$376 approx.	\$ 9,642,202
6) Choices for Care - Vermont Veterans Home (VVH) Cost Settlement to SFY24 costs \$4,877,747, of which \$3,914,480 is already in the base budget.	\$ 963,267

Sec. B.329 DAIL Administration

1) Internal Service fund increase for Agency of Digital Services (ADS)	\$ 312,378
Total	\$ 312,378

Sec. B.330 DAIL Grants (Adult Services Division)

1) AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$ 161,483
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Sec. B.331 DBVI Grants (Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired)
No adjustments requested.

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Sec. B.332 HireAbility Grants

No adjustments requested.

Sec. B.333 Developmental Services (DS)

1) AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$ 1,188,481
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Sec. B.334 Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Home and Community Based Waiver

1) AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$ 4,711
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Sec. B.334.1 Choices for Care

1) Nursing Home Emergency Fiscal Relief (EFR)	\$ 14,500,000
2) Choices for Care (CFC) utilization pressure	\$ 2,500,000
3) Choices for Care (CFC) carryforward	
Obligation for 5 nursing homes related to claims not paid	\$ 9,642,202
4) AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$ 1,041,326
5) Vermont Veterans Home (VVH) Cost Settlement	
SFY24 costs.	\$ 963,267

CFC Total	\$28,646,795
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